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San Francisco Chronicle

HERB CAEN

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ONE OF THE Bay Area's most prominent and widely respected columnists, Herb Caen, has followed Rev. Jones' ministry in his column for several years. His comments reflect the admiration and support that are held by the vast majority of community leaders for Rev. Jones. In his most recent columns, Mr. Caen has expressed skepticism about the validity of the press attacks against Rev. Jones and about Timothy Stoen's claim to paternity in the custody case he is pressing. The following are excerpts:

"Like Santa Claus, he (Rev. Jim Jones) knows when you've been good: many a San Franciscan and many a project have received sizable checks from Peoples Temple saying, 'We appreciate what you are doing."

(March 2, 1976)

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Re. the Tracy-Kilduff articles in the New West magazine: "So far, lots of smoke, but no gun."

(September 1, 1977)

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"District Attorney Joseph Freitas has said he found 'absolutely nothing' that would cause him to prosecute, so why does the Rev. Jones remain in the jungles of South America?

"One reason, as disclosed here some time back, is his fear that a six-year old boy he describes as 'my son' would be taken away if he returned. He means 'my son' literally, even though Timothy Oliver Stoen, a former Dist. Atty. here, and his more or less estranged wife, Grace Lucy Stoen, claim the lad is THEIR son. A custody fight, centered in Guyana, is still hanging fire.

"Floating around is what appears to be an affidavit signed by Tim Stoen on February 6, 1972, and witnessed by Marceline M. Jones, the Rev. Jones' wife. It states in part, 'I, Timothy Oliver Stoen, hereby acknowledge that in April, 1971, I entreated my beloved pastor, James W. Jones, to sire a child by my wife, Grace Lucy (Grech) Stoen, who had previously, at my insistence, reluctantly but graciously consented thereto. James W. Jones agreed to do so, reluctantly, after I explained that I...was unable after extensive attempts to sire one myself. My reason for wanting James W. Jones to do this is that I wanted my child to be fathered...by the most compassionate, honest and courageous human being the would contains.

"Jones' lawyer, Charles Garry: 'I have not seen that affidavit. I have, however, seen the boy in question, and he is the spittin' image of Jim.'"

(January 27, 1978)

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